

Message

From: Neil Sims [neil@ocean-era.com]
Sent: 2/1/2020 3:32:43 AM
To: Jen.Ahearn-Koch@sarasotafl.gov; Shelli.FreelandEddie@sarasotafl.gov; Willie.Shaw@sarasotafl.gov; Liz.Alpert@sarasotafl.gov; Hagen.Brody@sarasotafl.gov
CC: Dennis Peters [dennis@gulfstreamaquaculture.com]; Kevan Main [kmain@mote.org]
Subject: Offer to provide information or answer questions on Kampachi Farms' demonstration offshore net pen project.
Attachments: Kampachi HT Article Neil Sims Denni Peters 200127.pdf

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Commissioners,

We understand – as reported by Tim Fanning in the Herald-Tribune yesterday - that the “Sarasota city commissioners are considering a letter that offers a “strong and formal opposition” to a pilot project by Kampachi Farms”. (As reported in https://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20200130/sarasota-city-commissioners-consider-strongly-condemning-proposed-fish-farm-project-in-gulf?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sarasota%20Herald-Tribune%20daily%202020-01-31&utm_content=INKA_SHT&utm_term=013120).

I am unfortunately unable to attend your meeting on Monday evening, as I am currently back in Kona, Hawaii. However, I would like to offer to make myself available at any time by phone, or Skype, or through email Q&A, to provide any additional information or answer any of your questions on our demonstration net pen project.

We believe that much of the opposition to this project is based on misinformation, or distortion of the available evidence. We also believe that this net pen – and offshore aquaculture in general - could be a great benefit to the commercial, recreational and charter-boat communities of Sarasota and surrounding areas. This is one, small demonstration project. It is short term in duration, and it is only around 1% of the size of any projected commercial operation.

I attach here a copy of the op ed piece that Denni Peters (our Florida-based project manager) and I penned for the Herald-Tribune, which addresses many of the concerns and the potential benefits that could be gleaned from this project.

We would greatly appreciate your being open to engaging in meaningful discussion about your concerns, and how they might be answered by the best available science.

Your city’s support for, or tacit acceptance of our project – and for innovative offshore aquaculture in general - would be welcomed.

Thank you for your consideration, and aloha,

Neil

Neil Anthony Sims
Founder; CEO
Ocean Era, LLC*



(* = formerly known as 'Kampachi Farms, LLC')
Ph (808) 331 1188
Cell (808) 989 2438

Skype: neil.anthony.sims